

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### **Status of Claims**

Claims 5-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 5-8 have been added. No new subject matter has been added.

#### **Rejections Under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph**

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention. Claims 1-4 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants note that added claims 5-8 recite the subject matter of original claims 1-4, with the exemplary language cited by the Examiner clarified or removed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

#### **Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,454,042 to Yoshida *et al.* ("Yoshida"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and traverse this rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that the structural differences between Yoshida and the claimed invention distinguish it from Yoshida. Independent Claim 1 recited a ball nut that included "a step. . . ." This feature is similarly recited in Claim 5. Furthermore, the

circulator 11 of the claimed invention is attached to the exterior of the ball nut 7, at the “outer circumference of the ball nut” as recited by Claims 5 and 8.

In contrast, Yoshida discloses a gradual depth transition from the ball rolling guideway to the connecting groove (FIG. 4B). Furthermore, the bridge 24 of Yoshida is fitted within the nut body 22a (FIG. 2B). Therefore, Yoshida does not disclose, or suggest, a step in the screw groove. Claims 6 and 7 depend upon Claim 5 and include the limitations of their base claim as if set forth therein, and are allowable at least for the reasons presented above.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated May 15, 2007, has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that Claims 5-8 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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